

Jury acquits Nordland man of 6 DV charges

Lingle awaits trial on 2 other charges

By Nicholas Johnson of the Leader

After deliberating for more than two hours Dec. 16, a jury acquitted a Nordland man of six charges relating to allegations of domestic violence.

"It was an incredibly quick verdict as far as these cases go," Port Townsend defense attorney Joseph Schodowski said. "I spoke to three of the jurors who said they would have returned a not guilty on all counts in 45 minutes except for a hold-out on one count. They all agreed [the complainant's] testimony was not believable. One remarked that she knew exactly when to cry and look off into space when I asked the tough questions. The state's entire case rested on the word of someone who lied in open court and lied to officers."

Andrew P. Lingle, 38, was arrested July 27. He graduated from Port Townsend High School in 1995, has coached youth baseball for several years and was Chimacum High School's head varsity baseball coach during the spring of 2015.

Lingle, who took the stand during his trial, was found not guilty Dec. 16 of six charges, including two counts of second-degree assault, harassment, fourth-degree assault, violation of a no-contact order, and interfering with the reporting of domestic violence.



The woman driving the gold Honda (far left) was airlifted to Harborview Medical Center Dec. 22 after the car was struck by the Ford Ranger pickup while attempting to exit Prospect Avenue onto State Route 19 about 5 miles from Port Townsend. Photo by Bill Beezley, East Jefferson Fire Rescue

T-bone wreck sends 1 to hospital

By Leader staff

A two-vehicle traffic collision on State Route 19 at Prospect Avenue Tuesday afternoon sent one woman to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle with serious injuries.

East Jefferson Fire Rescue (EJFR) was ton to the accident at 12:38 p.m. after a gold Honda Accord four-door sedan pulled out from Prospect Avenue (the access to Kala Point area) into the path of an eastbound (toward Port Townsend) black Ford Ranger pickup and was struck in the driver's door, according to Bill Beezley, EJFR spokesperson.

It was described as a high-speed collision; the speed limit on that section of SR 19 (Airport Cutoff Road) is 50 mph.

The Honda's driver, described as a senior citizen, was extricated from her car by 12:56 p.m. She was transported to nearby Jefferson County International Airport for medical airlift to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle with lower extremity fractures, Beezley reported.

The driver of the Ford pickup, a 55-year-old Port Townsend man, complained of chest and shoulder pain and was evaluated by EMTs on scene before being released.

Both lanes of SR 19 were closed for about two and a half hours while the patients were being treated, the scene investigated and the vehicles removed. The Washington State Patrol is handling the investigation.

The resulting traffic backups apparently led to some other minor vehicle collision incidents, according to reports on JeffCom dispatch.

(The first version of this story appeared Tuesday

A seventh charge – second-degree assault – was earlier severed from the original charges and remains to be settled.

"Unless the court dismisses that count, I think it will go to trial," Schodowski said.

Chief Criminal Deputy Prosecutor Julie Trejo agreed, saying she intends to add another charge to that case: third-degree assault for criminal negligence and substantial pain.

"We all thought this was over with, but evidently the state refuses to let it go," Schodowski said.

Trejo said the defense asserted motives of revenge and greed throughout the case, calling Lingle's girlfriend a liar and JCSO Sgt. Mark Apeland's investigation shoddy.

"This is the kind of case that comes down, in great part, to credibility," Trejo said.

"This was a case where there was a ton of fighting about evidentiary ruling. The jury didn't get to hear everything."

That's probably for the best, or at least important in ensuring Lingle got a fair trial, Schodowski said.

"I said [the complainant] had lied to the officer, lied to the court and lied to the jury," he said. "I think Apeland's investigation was shoddy. He never canvassed the neighborhood or talked to neighbors. He never took pictures of the scene to show



Andrew P. Lingle (right) listens to closing arguments during his trial in Jefferson County Superior Court on Dec. 16 with defense attorney Joseph Schodowski. Lingle was acquitted of all charges after his arrest in late July 2015 on suspicion of domestic violence assault.

Photo by Nicholas Johnson

any signs of a struggle. He wasn't able to follow up with [the complainant] until eight days after [Mr. Lingle's] arrest. I think the charges were baseless."

Schodowski said the jury only took as long as it did because of a hangup over a charge that Lingle violated a no-contact order.

"Back in October I presented Ms. Trejo with irrefutable evidence that a phone call that gave rise to the no-contact charge never occurred," Schodowski said.

"For whatever reason, she never dismissed the charge, which in the end I think helped us. We were able to show Mr. Lingle's certified phone records showing that he never called. The state

had these phone records. I think that was a big issue for the jury. Not only did she make a false report when she reported this crime, she got on the stand and under oath testified falsely."

Trejo said she had hoped to challenge the defense's use of a private investigator who may have pressured the complainant to settle out of court, but the judge did not allow her to present such evidence.

"We had retained the services of a private investigator who got a little overzealous," Schodowski said. "At no point did myself or Mr. Lingle put [the investigator] up to anything. Fortunately, we didn't get into that at trial and [Judge Keith

Harper] did the right thing in keeping it out, as it would have muddied the waters and confused the jury."

The complainant was arrested Dec. 13 – the day before the trial – on suspicion of driving with a suspended or revoked license, said Trejo, who subsequently had the charge dismissed without prejudice, allowing the county to refile at a later time.

"In order to secure her presence at trial in anything other than prison garb, that was the only way to accomplish that," Trejo said.

Schodowski said for the prosecutor to pursue the remaining charges against Lingle at trial would be a further waste of county resources.

Law & Justice

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Trejo said her office has a responsibility to prosecute domestic violence cases.

"Domestic violence cases are by their nature difficult," she said. "We would not be doing our duty to protect the community if we failed to prosecute."

ARREST, ALLEGATIONS

Lingle's girlfriend called 911 on the evening of July 27 and reported Lingle had punched her in the ribs, choked her and pulled her hair, according to court records.

Aside from documenting the alleged July 27 assault, Sgt. Apeland's report from that night also describes the victim's allegations of two previous instances of domestic violence.

One of those allegations is that Lingle threatened to kill his girlfriend with a kitchen knife on July 15 after she failed to make ice cubes quickly enough. The other allegation is that Lingle beat his girlfriend on Oct. 7, 2014, resulting in a concussion and spinal injury, according to court records.

In January 2014, Lingle was granted a protection order against his girlfriend, the same woman involved in the July 2015 incident, claiming she had punched him in the face resulting in two black eyes, among other things. In March 2014, Lingle asked the court to terminate that protection order.

PA woman falls asleep at wheel, crashes

An 18-year-old Port Angeles woman was injured when she reportedly fell asleep at the wheel and crashed her vehicle on U.S. Highway 101 northbound near Uncas Road, 3 miles southwest of Discovery Bay.

The accident happened at 5:40 a.m., Dec. 20. According to

the Washington State Patrol (WSP), Karalynn Sherae Charles, 18, was driving a black 2000 Volkswagen Jetta northbound near Uncas Road, 3 miles southwest of Discovery Bay.

Charles reportedly fell asleep at the wheel, and the

vehicle hit a dirt embankment, rotated and came to rest facing southbound in the northbound lane, according to WSP.

Charles was transported to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, where she was treated and released from the emergency department.



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